



Fairy Stone Lake 2005



Fairy Stone Lake is a 168-acre reservoir located within Fairy Stone State Park. The park is located approximately 20 minutes Northwest of Martinsville, Virginia. Fishing is only one of the attractions offered at the park. The park also provides guests with other options such as lodging, camping, swimming, hiking, picnic facilities, and john boat or canoe rentals.

Fairy Stone Lake borders Philpott Reservoir and contains warmwater species such as largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, and crappie. Unlike Philpott Reservoir, outboard motor use is prohibited. However, boats with outboard motors can be used as long as the motors are trimmed up and are not in use. Fishing regulations are governed by state fishing regulations except there is no creel limit for crappie.

The largemouth bass population has changed since the late 1980's. Most bass were being harvested soon after reaching twelve inches in length. Currently the bass population is dominated by larger adult bass averaging 15 inches with some bass reaching 21 inches. This reservoir currently provides excellent largemouth bass fishing opportunities.

Previous management goals for crappie were to reduce the number of crappie to increase growth and condition. The creel limit for crappie was changed from 25 per day to unlimited in 1992 to promote additional harvest of crappie. With new regulations and large increases in predators (largemouth bass), the crappie population has been reduced significantly. Consequently, there are currently fewer crappie in the lake but the size structure of these fish has improved with some crappie reaching 13 inches in length.

The number of bluegill has been increasing but the quality of the bluegill has decreased. The largest bluegill average 6-7 inches. Since this lake does not contain shad, the sunfish provide most of the forage. The increase in bluegill numbers is an indication that the bass population is not overcrowded. Despite the reduction in large bluegill, there are still good numbers of bluegill up to seven inches. Angling opportunities for sunfish at Fairy Stone Lake should remain good as long as shad are not introduced into the lake.

Currently, there are no plans to change the management or regulations at Fairy Stone Lake other than returning crappie to statewide regulations. This is due to recent management goals successfully reducing the number of crappie and increasing the number of adult largemouth bass. The Fairy Stone Lake fishery can be characterized as average when compared to other small lakes in the state.